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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 001286

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TAGS: [AMGT](#) [ASEC](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [EAC](#)

SUBJECT: SANAA EAC MEETING 05/14/2005

Classified By: RSO Timothy Laas for reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

1. (C) Post EAC convened on May 14 at 10:00 A.M.local time to assess the possibility of demonstrations or other actions within Yemen in response to recent local and international news coverage about alleged Koran desecration at Guantanamo. Key offices and personnel represented at the meeting included: AMB, DAT, FPD, MO, LEGATT, POLE, POLM, OMC, RSO, CONS, and PD.

2. (C) RSO noted that, although there were no significant events over the weekend, students had planned on 11 May 2005 a demonstration for this morning at Sana'a University. Police, already aware of the planned demonstration, were standing by at the university before potential demonstrators arrived and limited early opportunities for groups to assemble. RSO noted as well that Sana'a University's campus is several miles from the Embassy, making any possible crowd movement to the Embassy both slow-moving and unlikely. Several embassy contacts have reported that the protest is not/not due to recent news coverage on alleged Koran desecration, but is rather resulting from local issues at the University, particularly a series of recent teacher strikes that have left the student body agitated. The fact that the attempted demonstration was planned prior to the initial break of the Guantanamo news story corroborates this assessment. The US Embassy has not been the direct target of any protest or demonstration since March 2003.

3. (C) Though the events at the University do not appear a reaction to the Koran desecration allegations, EAC members agreed that some form of response is still likely in Yemen, despite the comparative lack of significant coverage in the local media to date. As such, Embassy personnel will continue to monitor closely the situation for any changes.
Krajeski